State of Mysore, and Government have therefore decided to try a similar experiment in this country. The statistical information already collected in my office is being published in a compendious volume and arrangements have been made for the regular collection and publication of agricultural and other statistics.

CIVIC, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL PROGRESS.

29. **Municipal Councils.**—The year 1095 is marked by the passing of two important legislative measures, *viz.*, the Municipal Regulation and the Legislative Council Regulation, and I may be permitted to make the observation that, in spite of their defects, they cannot but be considered as landmarks in the history of civic and political legislation in this country. It is impossible to deny that the former of these enactments has enhanced the usefulness of municipal bodies, enlarged their powers and resources, and provided facilities for their constitution on a distinctly popular and representative basis. Government have not been slow to follow up this Regulation by taking steps to give practical effect to its liberal features. Soon after I assumed charge of my office, a conference of the Presidents of Municipal Councils was held under my presidency, and the conference was invited to lay down general lines of policy to be adopted in regard to the constitution and working of the Councils, and the manner in which they should amplify their resources and assume greater responsibilities. While the duty of the Councils to enhance their resources by resort more largely to local taxation and depend in a gradually diminishing measure on the doles of Government was emphasised, it was fully recognised that these popular institutions should be freed from official trammels in a constantly increasing measure. Government then announced their intention of generally accepting the decisions of the conference, and I think that I may fairly claim for the Government that they have kept their promise in the orders they have since issued regarding the constitution of the several Councils. It will be noticed that they have been systematically sanctioning the inclusion of the largest possible elective element in the constitution of the Councils, and have also been allowing almost every Council to elect its own President. In a few cases, they have not hesitated to go even beyond the recommendations of the Councils and to grant them constitutions more liberal than those proposed by themselves. It is needless to add that nothing will be more pleasing to the Government than the transference of the entire burden of Municipal administration to the new Councils, retaining only the power to conduct a strict audit or scrutiny into their affairs periodically, and it is hoped that the people living within municipal limits will realise to the full their responsibility to pay for services direct and indirect which they get through the labours of their civic fathers. From numerous protests and petitions with which they have been for some time flooded, Government gather with regret that the unwillingness of the people to share the financial burden has not diminished in proportion to the growth of their desire to share in the work of administration.

30. **Local Boards.**—It is under contemplation to widen the sphere of local self-government, by extending it to rural areas, and with this object the Additional Head Sirkar Vakil is engaged in drafting a Local Boards Bill. It is the intention of Government to create two sets of local bodies. One will be the Village Administrative Panchayat with specific sources of income and definite powers and responsibilities, such as the maintenance and control of local roads and ferries and the supervision of primary education and local sanitation. The other will be the District Council, representative in its constitution and mainly advisory in regard to its functions. It will be the recognised body for dealing with local needs and for advising District Officers in regard to agricultural, industrial, co-operative and other matters connected with the well-being of the locality served by it.

31. **Legislative Council.**—The Government have already indicated their intention of further liberalising the provisions of the Legislative Council Regulation, I of 1095, by making provision for a non-official majority, and by conferring the privileges of moving resolutions and asking supplementary questions. Government have also resolved to afford to the non-official members of the Council an opportunity to participate in the framing of the annual budget, and the latter have

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